



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number: 09/081,872
Appn. Filed: 05/20/98
Applicant(s): John H. Messing
Appn. Title: Electronic Signature Program
Examiner: Douglas J. Meislahn
Group Art Unit: 2767

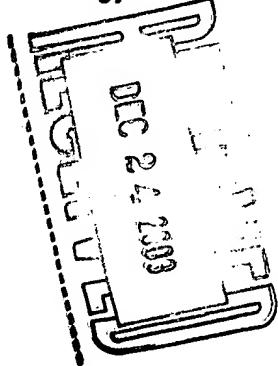
RECEIVED

DEC 23 2003

Technology Center 2100

Mailed: December 17, 2003

At: Tucson, Arizona

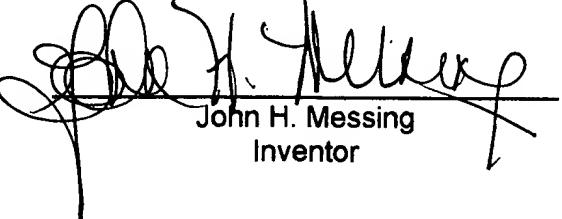


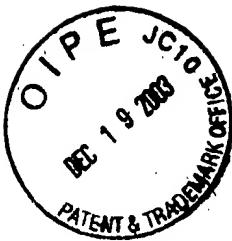
Notice of Transmittal of Declaration Under Rule 132

To the Examiner:

Please find attached the Declaration Under Rule 132, executed December 10, 2003, of Mohyeddin Abdulaziz, Chief Information Officer of the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division Two and Director of Information Technology at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law in support of the patent application herein. The Declaration is submitted as secondary evidence of the unobviousness of the invention which is the subject of the patent application, as amended.

Respectfully submitted this December 17, 2003,


John H. Messing
Inventor



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number: 09/081,872
Appn. Filed: 05/20/98
Applicant(s): John H. Messing
Appn. Title: Electronic Signature Program
Examiner: Douglas J. Meislahn
Group Art Unit: 2767

RECEIVED

DEC 23 2003

Technology Center 2100

Mailed:

At: Tucson, Arizona

Declaration Under Rule 132

MOHYEDDIN ABDULAZIZ, declares as follows:

1. I am the Chief Information Officer of the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division Two and the Director of Information Technology at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. As part of my duties at the Court of Appeals, I write and develop software for court filings made at the Court of Appeals and other court and case management functions. I developed the Arizona Court of Appeals On-Line Docket System (***ODSPlus***), ***e-filer*** (an electronic filing system), ***e-Blueback*** (a bulk e-filing system from the superior court), ***e-PR*** (e-filing of the Petition for review and other related documents from the Court of Appeals to the Arizona Supreme Court, and ***e-Distribute*** (electronic distribution of court documents to attorneys and litigants). I also served on the Arizona Supreme Court's Commission on Technology and I am currently a member of its Technical Advisory Council. I have been a contributor to various recognized standards bodies that develop standards for the court filings, including the CourtFiling Technical Committee of LegalXML-OASIS. I am a co-author of the LegalXML CourtDocument standard, which deals with document tags and

structures for legal documents used in court filings. I make this Declaration under Penalty of Perjury.

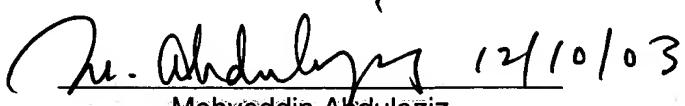
2. The invention of Mr. Messing for electronically signing documents was acquired by license in May 2001 for use by the Court of Appeals, Division Two, of the State of Arizona in electronic filings of briefs, notices and motions. Since 2003, it has also been used for signing judgments and orders by the Judges. The Court of Appeals is the second highest court in the State of Arizona. I periodically review the electronic filing systems of courts as part of my job duties and my involvement in standards efforts. The technology of this invention for electronic signatures meets a long-term need of electronic filing systems for signatures that can be attributed to judges, attorneys and other filers, and which can easily determine if electronic filings have remained unchanged since the date of filing. Unlike digital signatures generated with digital certificates of client side users, it only requires a single digital certificate at a server, which provides ease of use to filers, convenience in the design and operation of an electronic filing system; an ability to utilize ordinary database information about users for signature and verification purposes, and has a minimal impact upon workflows, reduces cost of electronic signatures, and does not sacrifice performance of the electronic filing system for signature needs.

3. The invention is novel over what existed prior to it.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein are true or are made on information or belief and are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willfully false statements so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Dated: December __, 2003

I declare under 28 U.S.C. §1746(2) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


Mohyeddin Abdulaziz
12/10/03